Traveling with Needles

Don't forget, safe needle disposal is important no matter where you are athome, at work, or on the road. Never place used needles in the trash or flush them down the toilets in hotel rooms, on airplanes, or in public restrooms, where they could injure the cleaning staff or other people.

Sharps and Air Travel

Before you fly, check the Transportation
Security Administration (TSA) Web site
(www.tsa.gov) for up-to-date—rules on
what to do with your needles when you
travel. Be prepared—ask about options
for safe needle disposal when you make
travel reservations, board an airplane,
or check into a hotel or cruise ship. If
you aren't sure that needle containers
will be available where you're going be
sure to buy a needle container that you
can take with you to hold your used
needles until you can dispose of the

way.



WASTEWATER UTILITY DIVISION
Pollution Prevention (p2) Program
4201 2ND STREET SW
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87105

Phone: 505-873-7058 Fax: 505-873-6975

Email: blujan@cabq.gov

Protect Yourself, Protect Others

Best Management Practices for Home Needle Disposal



A 44 year old wastewater treatment operator working at his station is stuck with a needle flushed into the toilet. A year later, his doctor tells him that he has caught Hepatitis C, probably from being stuck by the needle. Doctors have not been able to help him, and he is now in chronic liver failure. It's not just wastewater treatment operators who are at risk of needle sticks-it's also trash collectors, neighbors, children, janitors, housekeepers, and pets. That's why used needles should not be thrown in the garbage, or in the sewer.

Best Management
Practices for Disposal of
Medical Sharps Generated
in Private Residences

Drop-Off Collection Sites

The State of New Mexico offers collection sites that accept used needles for free for **private residences only**.

Visit nmenv.state.nm.us/swb/ needledisposal.htm for a complete list.

New Mexico **Public Health Offices** (**PHO**) offer this service. The sites in Albuquerque include:

Stanford PHO

1111 Stanford NE

841-4100

Northwest Valley PHO

7704 2nd St. NW

897-5700

Southwest Va<mark>lley PHO</mark>
2001 N. Centro Familiar SW

873-7478

New Mexico AIDS Services 625 Truman St. NE 938-7100



Mail-Back Service

You can buy this service, which comes with a needle container, and mail back packaging. The price usually depends on the size of the container you pick. You fill the needle container with your used needles and mail it back in the package that is provided by the company. The list of companies below may not be complete. Contact the p2 Program if you would like to add your company to this list:

BD™ Home Sharps by Mail available at Rite Aid drugstores nation wide. For information call **1-888-BDCARES** (1-888-232-2737)

www.safeneedledisposal.org/ds/BD_sdbm.html

Sharps Compliance, Inc.

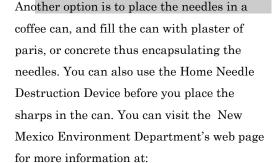
9350 Kirby Dr., Suite 300 Houston, Texas 77054 Tel: (713) 432-0300 Fax: (713) 432-055

http://www.sharpsinc.com/

Stericycle Bio Systems Sharps Management Tel (505)228-4799 http://www.stericycle.com/bio.html

Other Disposal Options

Place the sharps in a used bottle of bleach or detergent bottle with some bleach. Label the bottle "Sharps". You may also use a Home Needle Destruction Device to destroy needles at home. Destruction devices burn, melt or cut off the needle-making it safe to dispose of needles in solid waste.



nmenv.state.nm.us/swb/ needledisposal.htm

Ask your healthcare provider or local pharmacist if they can dispose of your used needles.

To learn more about rules regarding medical waste disposal consult EPA's Medical Waste Web site at:

www.epa.gov/epaoswer/other/medical

The information in this pamphlet is based on the EPA pamphlet <u>Recommended Needle</u> <u>Disposal Options for Self Injectors.</u>

Please keep in mind the p2 Program does not recommend, endorse, or promote any particular company, method, or technique. The information in this pamphlet is furnished as a public service.